



March 2007

Volume 6,

Issue 1

Our mission is to preserve and enhance Milner Gardens and Woodland, to educate and inspire. All gifts to Milner Gardens help us to achieve this mission.

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Staff at Milner Gardens

Geoff Ball
Interim Exec. Director
Charlene Forrest
Children's Program
Candice Coghill
Nursery / Gift Shop
Carol Hansen
Tea Room Coordinator
Michele Lacey
Secretary

President's Message

Spring is in the air and it is a pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the Milner Gardens Newsletter.

In the short time that I have been in the Office of the President, I have had the opportunity to visit the Gardens on several occasions. I must say, they are spectacular! The success of Milner Gardens & Woodland is the result of collaboration between hundreds of volunteers, staff, private donors and Milner Gardens Members. No matter what role you have played in "growing" and "cultivating" the Gardens, I thank you. Your contributions have blossomed into one of the most beautiful destination gardens and woodlands on Vancouver Island. Well done!

I look forward to meeting many of you May 3rd when we officially kick off Rhododendron Days and open our new Welcome & Interpretive Centre. Until then, Happy Gardening.

Ralph Nilson Ph. D.
President and CEO Malaspina University-College

Interim Executive Director's Message

We here at the gardens are excited about opening the gates for the season; they swing open on Thursday March 29th. There are blooms popping up all over the gardens promising a great spring, do come down soon to catch the early ones.

In addition to getting ready for opening, the staff and volunteers, with help from students from the Horticulture Technician Program, have been very busy cleaning up from a crazy winter. Although the storms created headaches for Milner Christmas Magic, luckily the gardens are still intact. We lost some trees, fortunately, most in the forest but we did end up with a huge clean up job on our hands. I'd like to thank the team of volunteers and students who pitched in to get the gardens ready for our early spring openings.

Administration: 752-8573 Volunteer Services: 752-7514	Milner Gardens & Woodland 2179 West Island Highway Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1G1	Reservations & Info: 752-6153 Fax: 250-752-3826 Web Site: www.milnergardens.org
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Interim Executive Director's Message (continued)

The spring openings were a great hit and although the rains were cold, it did make the hot soup and scones in the tearoom taste all the better. For those of you who were not able to make it out to enjoy the gardens in February or March, we will certainly be opening the gardens for early viewing again next year.

I am pleased to announce that after an incredible effort from volunteers (from fundraising to construction) and local supporters, as well as help from Malaspina University-College's Welding and Horticulture programs, we are nearing completion of the Welcome & Interpretive Centre. On May 3rd at 4:00 pm we will celebrate the opening of the new building. You are all invited to join us for this afternoon affair. After the opening there will be a reception on the Main Lawn where you will have the opportunity to meet our new President, Dr. Ralph Nilson.

Another project that I am excited about this spring comes from the Horticulture Technician Program. Last fall the students accepted the challenge of designing a new entranceway into the gardens from the east nature trail. Beginning in April, this year's class will be working onsite to install the design. This is an area long needing to be upgraded and we are grateful to the program for their help in making this a reality.

We have not yet opened and already we are getting ready for our Spring Plant Sale on April 21st & 22nd, and the Early Access Event for members on Friday April 20th starting at 5:00pm. If you are a member and have not made it to one of the early access evenings, I do recommend coming to this one; you can buy a glass of wine, enjoy strolling through the nursery and having first pick of the sales, well worth coming out for.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank John and Bob for all of the help over the years. We will miss you.

I wish you all a spectacular spring. I hope to see you in the gardens,

Geoff
Interim Executive Director

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to the generosity of our many members, friends and corporate sponsors we are completing another successful year for Milner Gardens & Woodland with more than \$85,000 raised. Not a group to rest on its laurels the Fundraising Committee is about to begin its annual campaign for 2007/08. Our goal is to raise just over \$87,000 in personal and corporate donations.

There are many ways to make a financial contribution that helps keep the gardens and woodland maintained. You can have a monthly gift charged directly to your credit card or make one annual donation. Considering a bequest in your will or a gift of stocks or mutual funds are other ways to help. The Book of Honours, mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter, is another good avenue.

Jean and Bill Cave are two loyal members and donors to Milner Gardens & Woodland. When asked why they think it important to donate they said:

"We believe contributing financially to Milner Gardens and Woodland helps to ensure the continuation of the educational opportunities and pleasures offered in this unique natural setting."

Please consider one of these options and make a donation. A form is available at the end of the Newsletter.

Lee Teal

Chair, Fundraising Committee

Shoots with Roots

Newsletter

♫ Helping community Shoots make and meet Roots ♫
education.milnorgardens@shaw.ca

Spring 2007

Charlene Forrest – program coordinator

The 2007 *Shoots with Roots* season is only 5 weeks old and already so much has happened!

- 5 groups who missed a visit in the fall due to severe weather have now had their second onsite visit, and 8 classes have just completed their third of five visits. More than 270 children have already been hard at work and learning at MGW - and the gates have yet to officially open for 2007.

- The *SwR* newspaper pot making/planting activity was featured at the children's areas of both the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in Seattle, and at the Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society Flower & Garden Show in Nanaimo. In the last week of March this activity will also be taken to numerous school classrooms in Oceanside and Nanaimo.

- A presentation on the *SwR* program was made at the joint meeting of the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, Northwest Scientific Association and Northwest Lichenologists, in Victoria. This was a great opportunity to showcase *SwR* to a different audience.

- *SwR* has been invited to join a team of botanical garden, museum and environmental educators to create a "National Outreach Resource Guide to Plant Conservation & Biodiversity Education". Two collaborating meetings will be held in Montreal in the next few months, the first will be Mar 20 - 23 so unfortunately the Spring Break Camp had to be cancelled ☹

- The BGCI national travelling display that featured *SwR* as the 'education' example has been made into a poster for distribution. MGW has been given numerous copies to share.

- *SwR* has been nominated in the 'Outstanding Non-Profit Organization' category of the EECOM (Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication) Excellence in Environmental Education Awards 2007. The nomination itself is a huge honour and accomplishment for *SwR*, there is not enough gratitude that can be extended to Laurel McIvor of BGCI Canada who has been a phenomenal supporter of our program over the years.

- Receiving continued local support for the program is also great measure of our success. *Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday* has once again donated funds for Children's Food Garden supplies, and *Parksville Connor Nursery* donated 371 packages of seeds for use in the Food Garden and Outreach Program.

Thank you to all the *SwR* mentors who have been helping out so much already this year!

You are invited to the
Welcome & Interpretive Centre Opening Celebration
Thursday May 3rd at 4:00 pm
Join us on the Main Lawn after the celebration
for an opportunity to meet
Malaspina University-College's new President, Dr. Ralph Nilson
Please RSVP by April 20th to 752-6153 or to volunteer.milnorgardens@shaw.ca

'Long Distance, Qualicum Beach' prints by Artist Edward Goodall

Edward (Teddy) Goodall (1909-1982)

Ray and Veronica met the Victoria artist and his wife Carol in the early 1970's. The Goodalls frequently spent several days as guests while Teddy painted in the garden. Many of his lovely watercolours, with views of the house and garden, are on display in the Main House.

This print of the original watercolour, "Long Distance, Qualicum Beach", shows the charm of the 4-hectare (10 acre) English country gardens at Milner Gardens & Woodland.

Milner Gardens & Woodland has a limited supply of unframed prints available for members and visitors. The print measures 30cm x 40cm (12" x 16") and is available for \$27.50 plus applicable taxes (Member discount applicable).

Note cards of this beautiful print can be purchased for \$2.00 each or 6/\$10.00 plus applicable taxes (Member discount applicable).

Prints and cards are available in the Magnolia Gift Shop located in the Main House.



"Long Distance, Qualicum Beach"
by Edward Goodall

Magnolia Gift Shop

Many times tours to the Garden are on a tight schedule and unable to enjoy our gift shop located at the Pool House. This fall a gift shop was added to the Main House allowing visitors with limited time a chance to purchase souvenir items after they have enjoyed their afternoon tea.

To date this second gift shop has been well received by members and visitors, and sales have proven to be very successful.

In honour of the breathtaking views the new gift shop commands, the new shop will be called the Magnolia Gift Shop.

Hours for the Magnolia Gift Shop will be 10:30am – 4:30pm.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Magnolia Gift Shop please contact Candice.



View to the orchard from the Magnolia Gift Shop

Artist Mary Comber Miles'

prints of 'Magnolia' and 'Paulownia'

Mary Comber Miles, Honorary Artist to Vancouver's Van Dusen Gardens was a close friend of Veronica Milner. Mary, and her husband Victor, shared with Veronica the problems of finding an appropriate future for this exceptional seaside property. Mary is delighted with the outcome and success of the Malaspina University-College team in making Milner Gardens & Woodland a reality.

Mary, who comes from four generations of horticulturists and botanists, was schooled at the Cambridge School of Art. Mary generously donated signed prints of *Magnolia dawsoniana* and *Paulownia tomentosa* var. *tsinglingensis* to support Milner Gardens & Woodland.

The unframed prints measure 47.5cm x 67.5cm (19" x 27") and are available for \$40.00 each plus applicable taxes (Member discount applies).

Prints are available in the Magnolia Gift Shop located in the Main House.



'Magnolia' and 'Paulownia'
prints by Mary Comber Miles

6th Annual SPRING PLANT SALE

**Saturday & Sunday
April 21st - 22nd**

In the Nursery
10:00am – 4:00pm
Admission by donation

**MEMBERS ONLY
EARLY ACCESS
Friday April 20th, 5-7pm**

Members will be asked to show their card at the Nursery



Master Gardeners will be on hand during this event to answer all your gardening questions and help pick out that perfect plant.

For more information please contact Candice at 752-8573 ext.291

Please note: Rhododendrons are not for sale during this event. They will be available during Rhododendron Days beginning May 3rd.

Members Special for March and April

Holey Soles – 25% off

Now only \$16.49-\$20.96*

Reg. \$21.95-\$27.95 *while supplies last

Be sure to show your membership card to receive 10% off all regular priced gift shop items.

THE MILNER GARDENS & WOODLAND VOLUNTEERS

Supporting our staff of one full time and five seasonal employees is an incredible corps of over 250 volunteers. Over the next several issues of MILNER MUSINGS, we will be introducing those volunteers to you. We will tell you what they do in the garden, where they live and perhaps a bit of other information about them. The most important thing about them is that we would not be able to operate without them. The group pictured below are the volunteers who make up the Board of Directors of Milner Gardens & Woodland Society. The Society's prime functions are to act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Director, and to solicit, receive and manage donations and gifts for support of the Gardens. The Society is composed of representatives from Malaspina University College; its Board of Governors, and members of the public who must become MGW members, and MGW Volunteers.



Milner Gardens and Woodland Society Board

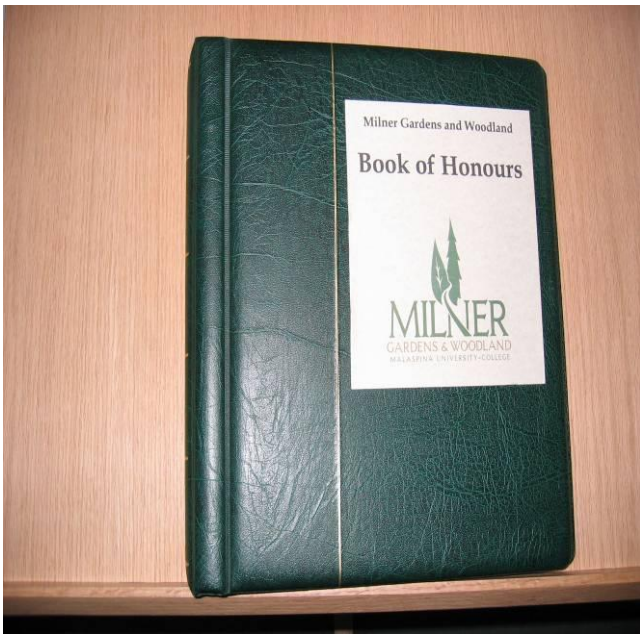
From l. to r. kneeling:

John England, Qualicum Beach, retired RCAF pilot, member Fundraising Committee, and Garden Docent **Ross Fraser** Lantzville, retired college Dean, Vice-chair MGWS, Fundraising Committee. **Corrie deKluyver**, San Pareil, retired Chartered Accountant, Treasurer MGWS, Corrie is one of our original volunteers and sits on the Fundraising Committee **Dave Alexander**, French Creek, retired Criminologist, Fundraising Committee and Shoots with Roots Mentor. **Geoff Ball**, Interim Executive Director. **Lee Teal**, Qualicum Beach, retired Municipal Executive, chair of the Fundraising Committee, Gift Shop Clerk. **Cindy Koutecky**, Nanoose, Manager, Parksville Branch, Coastal Community Credit Union.

From l. to r. standing:

Fran Jones, Qualicum Beach, Secretary MGWS, our original volunteer, Fran has done just about every job the garden has to offer. She is currently part of the Wedding Committee **Patti Miller**, Nanaimo, Vice-chair, Malaspina University College Board of Governors. **David Mitchell**, Ladysmith, retired educator, Marketing Committee and Fund Raising Committee. **Roy Taylor**, Lantzville, retired Botanical Garden Manager, chair of MGWS, and Fund Raising Committee. **Ralph Nilson**, Nanaimo, President Malaspina University College. **Dr. Kevin Doyle**, Qualicum Beach, Dental Practice in Parksville. **Lou Gueho**, Parksville, retired businessman, chair Volunteer Support Group, Gatehouse Cashier.

Missing: Edwin Deas, Nanaimo, Vice President/Bursar, Malaspina University-College



The Book of Honours

Program News

Two special friends of Milner Gardens & Woodland were honoured recently in **The Book of Honours**. *Mary Vincent Hughes* of Port Alberni and Victoria, a long time friend of Veronica Milner, died in late December and is remembered *in memoria* by her family and many friends in **The Book of Honours**. More recently, *John Wilmot Gayton*, a well-known volunteer and supporter of MG&W, was honoured *in memoria* by his family, friends and fellow volunteers.

The donations associated with this special program are directed toward the general operations of Milner Gardens and Woodland and form part of our annual fund raising efforts. **The Book** is on display in the Sitting Room of Milner House. A brochure with a form is available at the display indicating how a donation may be made to one of the categories of the program. Please stop in and view **The Book** and consider using the program to honour someone.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Milner Gardens & Woodland Society is a registered society Number 88675 3615 RR0001. Its sole mission is “to preserve and enhance the Milner Gardens and Woodland, to educate and inspire”. All gifts to the Society will be tax-receipted and will be used for Milner Gardens & Woodland.

Last year, the Society received a substantial donation, which has recently been established as a permanent legacy fund with the Parksville - Qualicum Community Foundation and the Vancouver Foundation. The interest on this fund will help to ensure the preservation and conservation of this Community jewel, by covering a substantial portion of its annual deficit.

If you would like to leave a legacy in your name by making a tax-deductible donation to this fund through Milner Gardens & Woodland Society or the Parksville - Qualicum Community Foundation, or would like additional information, please call or e-mail me.

Corrie deKluyver

Treasurer of Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

Milner Gardens office - 752-8573, or 248-0169, dekluyver@shaw.ca

Our Wish List This Year!

- very important - jelly and jam jars
- bone china side plates
- especially three-tiered serving plates for fancy sandwiches, etc.
- Also a small piano would be very nice as well, if anyone has one that needs a new home!



Camellia Tea Room

Our luncheons throughout the winter for our Members and Volunteers have proven to be very successful. The next ones coming up are planned for **April 13, May 18 and June 14**. The luncheons sell out very quickly so be sure to book early if you'd like a seat or table for a special lunch.

If you do not have e-mail and would like to be notified by phone, please call Local 224 and leave a message. Please note, during our open season, member's guests pay the reduced admission fee.

One new thing that we have planned this year for the Tea Room is a "Gramma and Me" Tea for Saturday, June 9th at 11:45. This is a great chance for Gramma to take a granddaughter out for nice lunch of small fancy sandwiches, scones with Devon cream, assorted dainties and tea. Gramma's lunch would be \$13.50 with a special price of \$6.50 for each granddaughter, 12 and under, \$9.00 for over 12, plus GST. This is by reservation only, Local 224, for members and volunteers. Of course, great granddaughters are welcome! Hmmm, if there is interest, we could do a burger and beans BBQ for the boys. Let us know, Grandpa!

Would we have anyone out there who actually likes to do ironing? We could use some kind soul every week or so to do some light ironing for the Tea Room to do up aprons, napkins and tablecloths.

.Always very popular, a special treat for our members, volunteers and their guests, is the opportunity to have a special luncheon in the Milner House.

Reservations are necessary, so book early to ensure a place.

Phone 752 8573 Loc 224 or e-mail
carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca
To reserve your seats

If you must cancel, please do so as early as possible so that someone else may take your place.

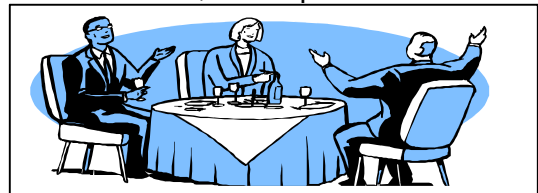
Join us for our April Luncheon

For members, volunteers and their guests

**Friday, April 13th
11:45**

Ham and Cheddar Quiche
 Asparagus Vinaigrette
 Carrot Raisin Salad
 Poppyseed Fruit Dessert Tea/Coffee

All for \$13.95 plus GST



Please note luncheon time change to 11:45 so that we can have the Tea Room ready for regular afternoon tea service.

Join Milner Gardens this summer to celebrate the arts!

For all courses, call 1-866-734-6252 or for more information see <http://www.mala.ca/ccs/programareas.asp> and click on Summer Courses.

<p><i>Watercolours For Beginners</i></p> <p>Mon. & Tue. July 16th & 17th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Instructor: Michaela Davidson. Members (\$124) & non-members (\$129); tuition includes lunch.</p>
<p><i>Nature Photography</i></p> <p>Wed. July 18th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Instructor: Richard Sillery. Members (\$55) & non-members (\$60); tuition includes lunch.</p>
<p><i>Chinese Brush Painting</i></p> <p>Thur. July 19th from 10:30 am - 4:30 pm. Instructor: Andy Shutse Lou. Members (\$60) & non-members (\$65); tuition includes lunch.</p>
<p><i>Reading the Leaf</i></p> <p>Learn to read tea leaves – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on the first Friday of July, August and September. Tea Cup Tales: The instructor is Tanya Lester. Members (\$58) & non-member (\$63); tuition includes lunch.</p>

Current E-Mail Addresses!!! If you, or someone you know, has provided an email address to Milner Gardens, but have not received newsletters or event notifications by email, it may be that we have an incorrect email address. Please forward any corrections, with your full name(s), and the correct email address to: volunteer.milnergardens.@shaw.ca so that we can make any necessary changes.

 <div style="background-color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p align="center">Volunteer Opportunity Day</p> <p align="center">Saturday & Sunday</p> <p align="center">April 21st & 22nd</p> <p align="center">10:00am- 4:00pm</p> <p>Interested in Volunteering at Milner Gardens & Woodland? Stop by during our Spring Plant Sale weekend and speak with a volunteer about any of the positions currently available.</p> <p align="center"><i>Volunteering, it grows on you.</i></p> </div>	<p>Volunteer Positions</p> <p>Horticulture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday Gardener • Garden & Trail Steward • Plant Sales • Food Garden Helper <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Docent • Shoots with Roots Mentor <p>Customer Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate House Cashier • Gift Shop Clerk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Magnolia Gift Shop ○ Pool House Gift Shop • Tea Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Server ○ Kitchen Helper ○ Luncheon Helper
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MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND SOCIETY ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FUND

ANNUAL DONOR CATEGORIES: All donors will receive recognition in the annual published donors list.

Benefits - please check box when choice provided

- Primrose Circle** **\$100+** One garden admission pass
- Magnolia Circle** **\$250+** Two garden admission passes
- Douglas-fir Circle** **\$500+** Four garden admission passes
- Rhododendron Circle** **\$1,000+** Four garden admission passes
+ Invitation for two to annual donor reception at the Garden
- Garden Benefactor** **\$5,000+** Six garden admission passes
+ Invitation for two to annual donor reception at Garden
- Milner Partner** **\$10,000+** Six garden admission passes
+ Invitation for two to Milner Partner's dinner
+ Recognition in a MGW program or other agreed upon project.

Donor name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province/State: _____

Postal Code/Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____ Date of donation: _____

Please indicate below how you would like your name or names to be listed in the annual donors list

My donation is \$ _____ cash or cheque [payable to **Milner Gardens and Woodland Society**] or
 credit card Amex Mcard Visa No. _____: Expiry date/month _____ / _____
 Name on card _____ Signature: _____

Official tax receipts will be issued by Milner Gardens and Woodland Society under Canadian Federal Charitable # 88675 3615 RR0001 for all donations \$10 or greater.

Please send information about:

- Annual membership categories The Book of Honours Donate a stock security
- Planned giving opportunities Make a bequest to the MG&W Society Installment donation by credit card

2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1G1
 Office: (250) 752-8573 Fax: (250) 752-3826 Email: milnergardens@shaw.ca www.milnergardens.org

OFFICE RECORD	Date received: _____; Admission passes sent: _____
ONLY	Other information requests sent: _____

Milner Gardens Corporate Sponsors



Live well with



Membership Renewal:

If you purchased or renewed your Milner Gardens & Woodland membership last spring, please take a moment to renew your membership now.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual \$25 Member benefits for one
- Household \$40 Member benefits for adults and children living at the same address

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ♦ Free admission to the Gardens during regular garden hours (excluding some special events)
- ♦ Priority registration for education courses
- ♦ 'Milner Musings' Quarterly Newsletter
- ♦ Gift Shop & Nursery – 10% discount off regularly priced merchandise and plants
- ♦ Discounted Guest Passes @ \$7.50

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Individual \$25 Household \$40

Ms. Miss Mrs. Mr. Dr. Full Name (1) _____

Ms. Miss Mrs. Mr. Dr. Full Name (2) _____

Address _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____ E-mail _____

Phone (Home) _____ Phone (work) _____

Visa/Master Card: _____ expiry date: ____/____

Cheque: Payable to Milner Gardens & Woodland